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to the logical mind or even as they occur in the trial of a cause, for an improper arrangement of the subject may cause the investigator to fall into error. For example, the cases dealing with the order of liability of assets in marshaling decedents' estates should be arranged in the order in which they come as laid down in the statutes or decisions; throwing the cases in helter skelter, as is often done, leads to much confusion, and mystifies the reader. Lastly, cross references should be specific, as the busy lawyer has no time to look up general cross references only to find that they were made to some point foreign to the question he is investigating. These are the worst and most commonly committed errors. Others might be mentioned, but those given suffice to disclose wherein careful editorial work enhances in a material way the value of a digest.

The editorial staff of this Encyclopedia of United States Supreme Court Reports seems to have been careful to avoid these errors. Experience of many years, ability of the highest order and thorough supervision of every subject is evident upon each page of the two volumes issued. If continued in the same painstaking way, this work, when completed, will be unsurpassed of its kind.

The Law of Instructions to Juries in Virginia, with a Collection of Forms in Civil and Criminal Cases Approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. By Louis C. Phillips of the Newport News Bar. For sale by James E. Abbe, Newport News, Va.

Mr. Phillips in this admirable book has rendered the Virginia profession a service hard to be overestimated. He has collected, collated and analytically arranged not only the Law of Instructions, but has given all the forms of those approved by our Supreme Court so as to make them readily accessible. One has no longer to consult the digests, examine his commonplace books and take down innumerable volumes to find either the law or the form of instructions on any point civil or criminal which has been passed upon by our court of last resort. The first 62 pages are given to the law, the rest of the 652 pages to approved forms. The author's statement of the law is admirably done, and no proposition is advanced without ample citation of authority to justify it. The forms follow in alphabetical order of subject, and are harmoniously and systematically grouped. We do not see how any Virginia lawyer can afford to be without it, and its value in giving terse statements of law upon so many important subjects should command for it a field of usefulness very wide reaching. The make up of the book is admirable. The excellent quality of thin paper used makes it easy to handle and those lawyers who still "ride circuit" will have no difficulty in carrying it with them, and where a library of complete Virginia Reports is lacking, will have the gist of the law in their hands.

Legal Aphorisms, by John Wesley Friend, of the Newport News, Virginia, Bar. Richmond. Whittet & Shepperson, Printers. Price \$5.00 prepaid.

The Newport News Bar is responsible for the valuable work of Mr. Phillips on the "Law of Instructions," reviewed above. Mr. John W. Friend, of the same bar has compiled and published the above

work, which puts under proper heading many legal propositions which are not easily found in the books. It is a "commonplace book" in that it groups alphabetically expressions of familiar principles, which are useful to know or peculiarly fortunate in the way they are put.

It is to be regretted that the author did not write a preface explaining his purpose and calling attention to the method of using the volume. To those lawyers who are in the habit of keeping and using an *index rerum* or commonplace book, the book will prove a valuable aid, and the profession at large will find it useful after they have taken the pains to make out its purpose and learn how to use it.

The Laws of England, being a complete statement of the whole law of England. By the Right Honorable, the Earl of Halsbury, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, 1885-86, 1886-92, and 1895-1905, and other lawyers. Volume 3, from Bills of Sale to Burial and Cremation. Butterworth & Company, 11 & 12 Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 1908. Cromarty Law Book Company, 1112 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Price \$7.50, net.

The third volume of this compilation of the laws of England will be of particular interest to American lawyers, as it contains the Bill of Sales Act, which has been almost in its entirety adopted by several states in the Union, and which was proposed in the last Virginia Legislature and not acted upon. We sincerely hope that the next Legislature will adopt this admirable act, with such slight changes as to meet the American views on the subject. The article on Bonds, Boundaries and Public Walls is likewise of interest to the American lawyer; whilst the article on Building Contracts, Engineers and Architects will also be found useful. About one hundred and seventy-five pages of the volume are taken up with the laws of Burial and Cremation, and American lawyers will be surprised to find how much law there is in England upon a subject, to which our law-makers have given practically no attention, but which in England has given rise to many curious decisions and some strange, along with some excellent, law. It becomes plainly apparent with the issuance of each volume of this work that it can not only be used by the American Lawyer as a source of information, but that it has a distinct practical value.

Machen on Corporations, a Treatise on the Modern Law of Corporations with reference to formation and operation under General Laws. By Arthur W. Machen, Jr., of the Baltimore Bar. Boston. Little, Brown & Co. 1908. Two Volumes. 2032 pages. \$12.00 net.

We have books galore on Corporations and Corporation Law, but this is the first attempt to bring together in a work entirely devoted to this subject, the laws of our everyday business corporations from the point of view appropriate to those organized under general laws. The author has written a *modern* law book, rejecting the old law of Corporations organized under crown charters or special acts of the Legislature. He has analyzed thoroughly the law and process of incorporation, of promoters, of underwriting agreements, of preferred shares, of increase and reduction of capital, of transfer of shares, of directors' and stockholders' meetings, of by-laws and dividends and many subdivisions of the law of bonds and mortgages. There is no